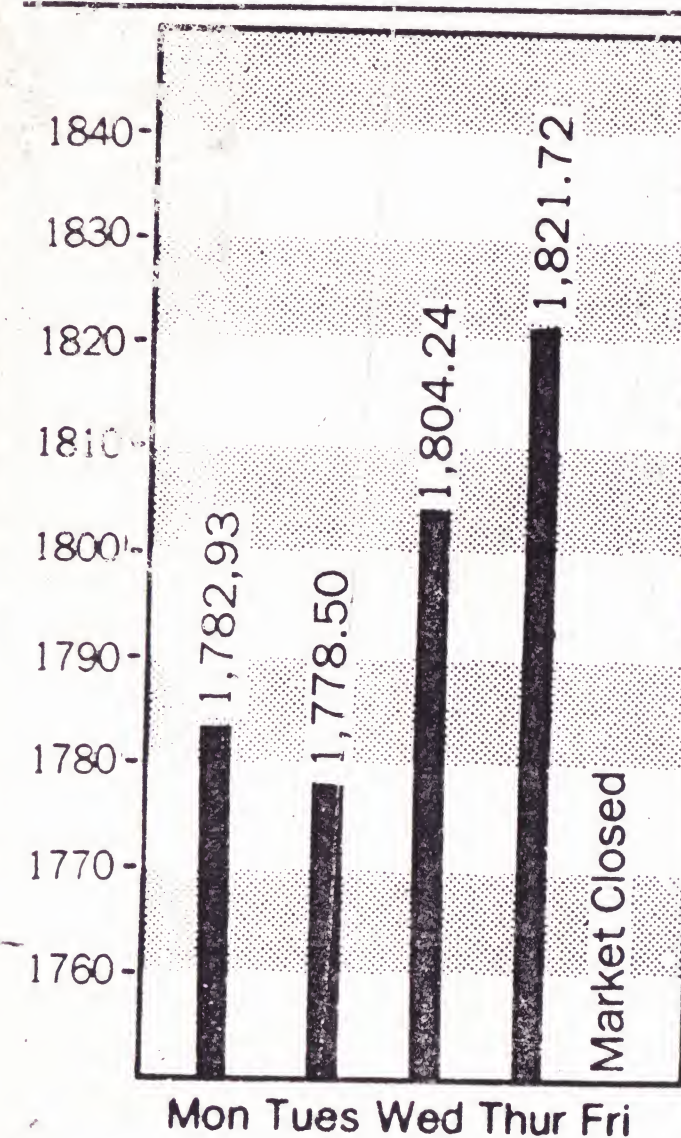


Journal of Business

DOW JONES



NATION

MOTION DENIED. A federal appeals court has denied a motion by **Pennzoil Co.** to recall an injunction barring it from putting liens on Texaco Inc.'s assets, pending resolution of the two companies' multibillion-dollar legal battle.

The ruling, by the Second Circuit Court of Appeals Thursday, upheld an earlier decision that would give **Texaco** freedom to use its assets to secure financing on credit markets.

Pennzoil, awarded an \$11.1 billion judgment against Texaco over Texaco's acquisition of **Getty Oil Co.** in a Houston court last year, said it feared that Texaco's use of the assets to raise money might place them at risk in an era of plunging oil

Packager able to wrap up tire problem

By Darwin Sator
BUSINESS WRITER

Cooper Tire Co. used to stack tires 50 high on pallets in its giant warehouse along Interstate 75 south of Dayton, and three predictable things happened — some tires fell, some were damaged and once in a while someone had to duck.

Before a solution was found, between 15 and 20 tires a day were damaged and had to be scrapped, according to Roy S. Smith, manager of the Cooper Tire Distribution Center.

The solution comes from Packaging and Handling Supplies Co., 3030 Springboro Road, which has devised an automated system that wraps together with clear plastic film the top two tires of each of four stacks of tires on a pallet. That stabilizes the load and prevents the tires underneath from slipping out and falling onto someone's head or damaging themselves.

Also, tires now no longer get chewed up after falling beneath the wheels of the 350 robot carts that carry them from the loading dock through the plant along a two-mile chain-in-floor conveyor system.

The basis of the system installed at Cooper Tire is a machine acquired from a New Jersey company, but extensively modified by PHSC. The modifications include three patentable systems — an air brush to brush the cut film to the tires, fingers to eliminate tails and a positive stop lock in the tow-line to prevent the carts from moving backward.

The Cooper system has been so successful that PHSC has decided to manufacture a smaller version of the wrapper and expects to sell thousands of them.

The Cooper warehouse, once Frigidaire's appliance distribution center and now one of the largest tire-handling facilities in the United States, currently holds more than a million tires — an estimated \$35 million worth. By stacking them higher, it can hold up to 1.3 million at one time.



Loaded pallet of tires is lifted into position in the Dayton Warehouse of Cooper Tire Co.

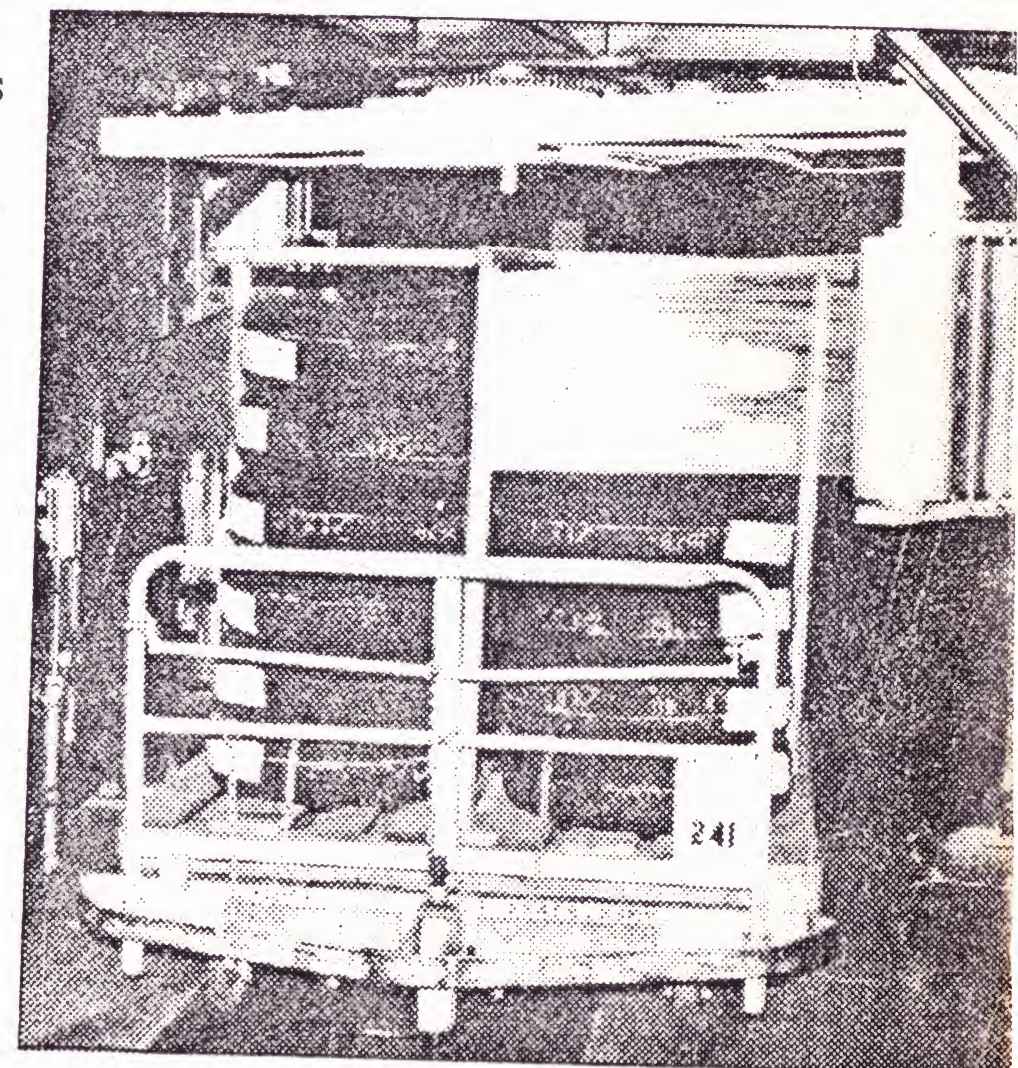
Although the machine cost Cooper \$50,000, by saving \$700 worth of tires a day, not to mention people's heads, it will pay for itself in less than six months. Machine-wrapping, as opposed to hand-wrapping, also saves on labor and material costs.

Jim Nazarenus, owner of Packaging and Handling Supplies, says the company has just installed two other similar stretch wrappers for a tire manufacturer in Texarkana, Texas, that requires that a pallet full of tires be wrapped every 20 seconds.

"All of the major tire makers have been in to look at the system," Nazarenus said.

Now, the company has formed a machinery division to manufacture a smaller-sized but still heavy-duty shrink-wrapper, which it expects to sell for \$5,000.

Seven of the smaller machines have been sold, even though none has been built, and they will be introduced in November at the Packaging Machinery Materials Expo in New York.



Machine wraps top 2 tires on each stack